

# ISTITUTO SIEROTERAPICO MILANESE

"SERAFFINO BELFANTI"

ENTE MORALE AGGREGATO ALLA UNIVERSITÀ DI MILANO

Direttore Scientifico: Prof. Augusto De Barbieri

Direzione Scientifica

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TELEFONO n. 35.74.41 (5 linee)

Monday the 26th, March  
1956

Dear Joshua,

Thanks for your note of March 18. Concerning reprints: 300 will be requested by the Istituto, and 300 by myself, ~~xxx~~ <sup>with</sup> a total of 600; the invoice for the total should be addressed to ~~the~~ the Istituto. An invoice will be necessary for being able to effect the payment.

I find some difficulties in writing chapters II and V, the material for which has been accumulated and various drafts have been already written, and shall have to wait for a period of inspiration. Are you one of those fortunate people who can ~~write~~ sit down at any moment and write whatever necessary in good form ~~and~~ and style? I certainly am not.

As you spoke in your last letter about a reconstruction experiment to test for Jacob's hypothesis; I made a similar one some time ago but it is not quite conclusive. Here are the essential data: Various numbers of A (M-F+Az<sup>S</sup>) and/or B cells (M-Hfr Az<sup>R</sup>) were crossed to TL-F-(10<sup>9</sup>) cells on min. Prototrophs were tested for Az and F, with the results given:

No. cells A	B	Az <sup>R</sup>		Az <sup>S</sup>	
		F+	F-	F+	F-
10 <sup>7</sup>	-	0	0	44	6
-	10 <sup>5</sup>	0	41	0	9
10 <sup>6</sup>	10 <sup>5</sup>	1	34	2	11
10 <sup>7</sup>	10 <sup>4</sup>	3	4	37	2
10 <sup>7</sup>	10 <sup>5</sup>	5	23	18	2
10 <sup>7</sup>	10 <sup>6</sup>	2	16	1	7
10 <sup>8</sup>	10 <sup>5</sup>	2	3	39	6

I realise now that the experiment was unfair to Jacob there being an excess of F-; no doubt a great amount of infection of Hfr x F- progeny takes place, but if the present data with an excess of F- can be taken as good, not enough to explain the whole of observed recombination. Moreover, if the ~~xxxxxxx~~ Jacob's hypothesis is correct, there should be a ~~recombination~~ F+ → Hfr mutation rate of about 1 in 300, which seems rather in conflict with all the experience cumulated in thousands of isolates from F+ strains. It should however be of some importance to establish the F+ to Hfr mutation rate, and its bearing on the recombination frequencies. Have you any data, plans, suggestions?

All the best,  
*Yours, Luca.*

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